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[Leaflets ... on Boys Reading
Fraternity

CAMDEN POST-TELEGRAM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1905.

WIDESPREAD INTEREST MANIFESTED IN THE BOYS' READING FRATERNITY

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Officers of Roosevelt Chapter No. 1, Boy's Reading Fraternity.

A movement that promises to spread throughout the country, and be of incalculable benefit to boys, has its birthplace in the Free Public Library of Camden. This movement is the Boys' Reading Fraternity, organized by Librarian William H. Ketler for the purpose of enlisting the boys in an effort to reduce the percentage of fiction read at the Camden Library and its branches. Every member of the Fraternity has signed the following pledge:

"I, ————————, do solemnly promise that for every volume of fiction I shall read hereafter I will read two 'Class' or non-fiction, books. I also promise that I will respect the work of the Free Library and protect its property, and I will urge all other persons to do the same. To all the foregoing I pledge my sacred honor."

THE FRATERNITY'S EMBLEM.

When he has signed the pledge, the roll book being open from 4 to 5 p. m., and again from 7 to 8 p. m., one day a week, the member is given a button of white celluloid with a light blue edge or border. Around the top of the button is the Fraternity motto, "Learn to Live, Live to Learn." Beneath the motto and around the button is a narrow circle of light blue. Within this circle is a burning lamp standing upon an open book, and beneath the book and lamp is the name, "Boys' Reading Fraternity." The member is also given a membership card, or certificate, bearing, on the back, his pledge, headed "My Obligation."

THE OFFICERS.

Up to last Wednesday 308 boys, of from ten to twenty years of age, had read the obligation aloud, and signed the roll, at the Camden Free Library. At the first business meeting, on December 9, the boys unanimously agreed to let Librarian Ketler appoint the first officers of Roosevelt Chapter, No. 1—as they agreed to call the Camden branch of the Fraternity—and he named the following:

President, Spencer G. Easton; vice president, Walter C. Kelly; secretary, Hubert McGeorge; chaplain, Horace B. Ketler; inside guard, Walter Ellis, Jr.; outside guard, Alfred Quimby; executive board, Edwin F. Crane, as chairman, Harold L. Giles, as secretary, Eldred I. Hibbs, Walter Kille and Harry Fuhrman.

President Easton is a promisng young artist, and Vice President Kelly is an ambitious young business man. They accepted these positions in the Fraternity at he urgent request of their friend, the Librarian, who wanted their assistance in the work of drilling the boys in parliamentary usage.

Secretary McGeorge, Executive Chairman Crane, Executive Secretary Giles and Executive Member Kille are High School students, while Chaplain Ketler, Inside Guard Ellis, Outside Guard Quimby and Executive members Hibbs and Fuhrman are attending other grades of the city's public schools.

FORMS AND CEREMONIES.

At their first meeting the boys also agreed to the Librarian's proposition that the Fraternity should be open to all boys, without regard to race, creed, or color, who should take the Fraternity pledge, and that a feature of the Fraternity should be an open meeting, or entertainment, one night a month, to which each member should bring his father or next male relative. At this entertainment, it was provided, the boys should do the entertaining, and more than a score immediately gave their names to the Librarian and said they were able to speak, sing, or perform on the piano, in public. Two of them were called to the stage and, without prompting, recited very creditably. The rest of the boys were called upon to rise in their seats and express their opinions or ask questions. A number responded, and all seemed to enjoy this "experitnce meeting" feature.

The Librarian drilled the boys in a few simplt forms, one of which was rising at two taps of the gavel and reciting the obligation in concert and with the right hand raised. This ceremony was made very impressive by the boy chaplain advancing to the front of the stage, and with his right hand raised, leading the boys in the audible recitation of their obligation.

The boys were promised a marcaing song, for use at their meetings, and were drilled in their Fraternity yell, which is as follows:

"B-R-F. B-R-F. Learn to live. Live to learn. B-R-F." (The last "B-R-F" being long-drawn-out and very loud).

REWARDS FOR THE BOYS.

Since the first business meeting the Executive Board has appointed the following-named boys to act as organizers, or solicitors, as ushers at the open meetings, and, whenever the Chapter turns out in public, as sergeants:

G. Jarrett Sauerhoff, Raymond Ireton, Samuel Auerbach, John Coyle, C. Lucas, John MacDermott, George Yost, Ralph Hall, Howard Gominger, Abe Reiner, Nesbert Wood and Isidor Reisman.

In answer to the question: "Will the Fraternity be permanent?" the founder says: "I believe the custom of having the boys bring their fathers once a month, to hear recitations and other performances by the boys, insures the permanency of the Fraternity."

Will the boys remain faithful to their pledge? It is believed that the custom of repeating their obligation aloud and in concert every time they meet will be a powerful influence for this end. Furthermore, it is believed that many lodge-going fathers, when they have read the boys' obligation, will realize their responsibility and, accordingly, will impress upon their boys the meaning of the phrase, "sacred honor."

The custom of having the boys furnish all the entertainment at the open meetings will, it is believed, develop initiative and stimulate ambition, and in this respect alone the Fraternity will be a great force for good.

ADMINISTRATION.

The administration of Roosevelt Chapter rests with the officers and the Executive Board although they have made the Librarian and founder their permanent adviser.

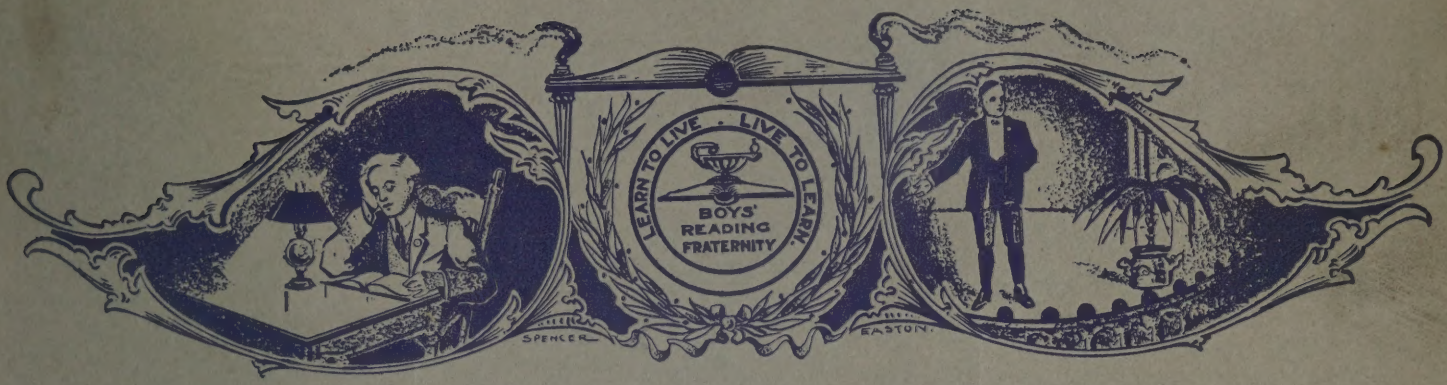
The Executive Board is now engaged in drafting a constitution and set of by-laws for the chapter, and will report at the next regular meeting of the chapter, at 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, January 6, 1906. Tht constituion will require the chapter to make provision for an open meeting one night a month, to which every boy will bring his father or next male relative.

Inquiries having come from other cities as to the necessary procedure for organizing other chapters, the officers of Roosevelt Chapter, No. 1, have been asked by the Librarian to act as "The Grand Chapter of New Jersey," and to grant charters to subordinate chapters until the organization of a State body composed of elected delegates. The Grand Secretary is Hubert McGeorge, No. 521 Broadway, Camden, N. J. He will cheerfully furnish all desired information concerning the order. Inquirers should always enclose a stamped envelope when writing to him as the Fraternity has no revenue.

Grand President, SPENCER G. EASTON,
Grand Vice-President, WALTER C. KELLY,

Grand Secretary, HUBERT MCGEORGE,
Grand Chaplain, HORACE B. KETLER,

Grand Inside Guard, WALTER ELLIS, JR.
Grand Outside Guard, ALFRED QUIMBY.



THE GRAND CHAPTER of NEW JERSEY

THE BOYS' READING FRATERNITY

FOUNDED NOV. 22D, 1905, BY WILLIAM H. KETLER,
LIBRARIAN OF THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CAMDEN, N. J.

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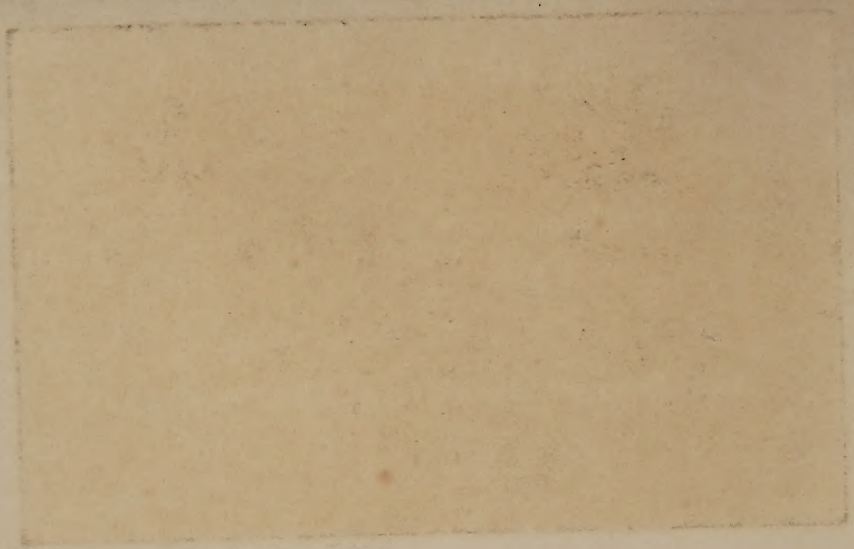

Free Public Library of Camden, N. J.

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This certifies that .....

is .....#2154219

of .....Chapter No. .....of

The Boys' Reading Fraternity.

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OVER Librarian

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

—OF—

#2154.219

THE GIRLS' READING FRATERNITY

ADOPTED BY THE
GRAND CHAPTER OF NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 16, 1906

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Published by authority
Camden, N. J.

LEARN TO LIVE AND LIVE TO LEARN.

Learn to live and live to learn,
Ignorance like a fire doth burn,
Little tasks make large return;
Learn to live and live to learn.

In thy labors patient be,
Afterward, released and free,
Nature will be bright to thee;
In thy labors patient be.

Toil, when willing, groweth less,
"Always play" may seem to bless,
Yet the end is weariness;
Toil, when willing, groweth less.

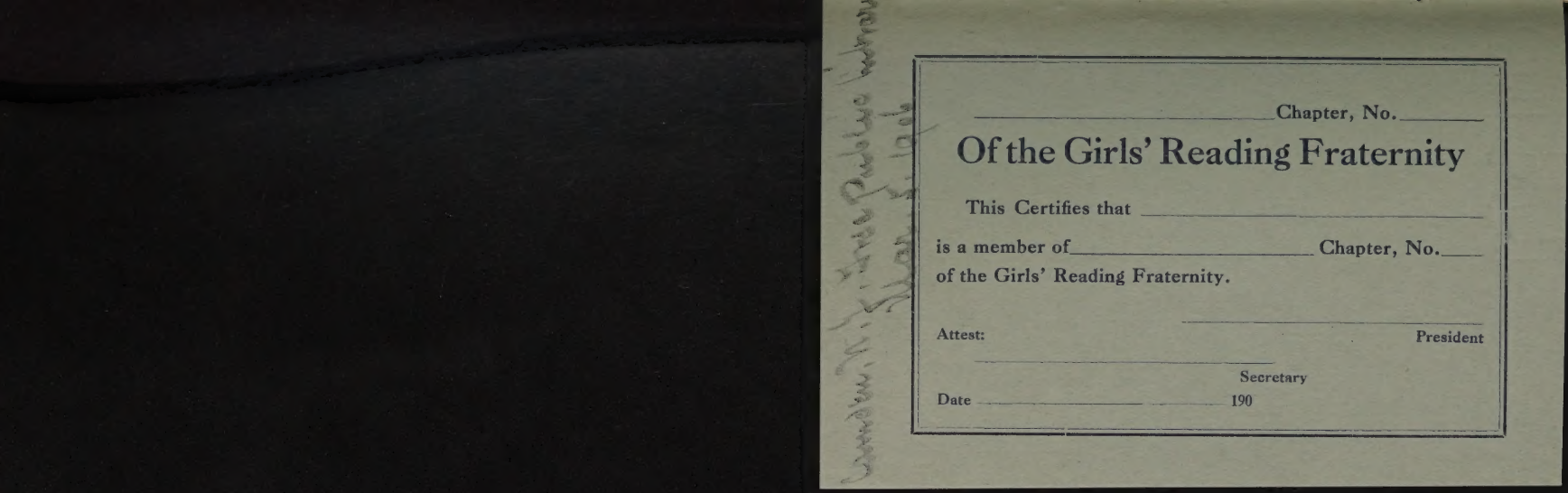
Live to learn and learn to live,
Only this content can give;
Reckless joys are fugitive!—
Live to learn and learn to live.

* * *

MY OBLIGATION

I, ...

do solemnly promise that for every volume of fiction I shall read hereafter I will read two "Class," or non-fiction, books. I also promise that I will respect the work of the Free Library and protect its property, and I will urge all other persons to do the same. To all the foregoing I pledge my sacred honor.



_____ Chapter, No. _____

Of the Girls' Reading Fraternity

This Certifies that _____

is a member of _____ Chapter, No. ____
of the Girls' Reading Fraternity.

_____
President

Attest:

_____
Secretary

Date _____ _____ 190

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

This organization shall be known as ..... Chapter, No....., of the Girls' Reading Fraternity.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT.

Its object shall be the intellectual improvement of its members.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS.

Its officers shall be, at least, a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a chaplain, a guard, two musicians and an executive board of five members.

ARTICLE IV.

MEETINGS.

The chapter shall meet at least twice a month. None but members shall at-

tend the meetings, except as provided in the by-laws. Seven members shall constitute a quorum. Special meetings may be called at the option of the president or upon the written application of five members.

ARTICLE V.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any member may present, in writing, at any regular meeting, the name of any girl, between 14 and 20 years of age, who desires to become a member. The name of the applicant shall then be voted upon by ballot. Five negative votes shall reject the applicant. If less than five negative votes should be cast the applicant shall present herself if possible, at the next meeting of the chapter and sign an obligation reading as follows:

"I,....., solemnly promise that for every volume of fiction I shall read hereafter I will read two 'Class' or non-fiction, books."

ARTICLE VI.

AMENDMENTS.

No amendment shall be made to the constitution, or to the by-laws, unless proposed in writing at a regular meeting and laid on the table until the next regular meeting, when it shall be voted upon. A two-thirds vote of those present shall be necessary for its passage.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Section 1.—President and Vice-President.—The president shall perform the duties pertaining to this office. In the event of her absence or disability her duties shall be porformed by the vice-president, who shall hold herself in readiness to assist the president in any regular way.

Section 2.—Secretary.—The secretary shall perform the usual duties of this office.

Section 3.—Guard, Chaplain and Musicians.—These officers shall perform the duties indicated by their titles.

Section 4.—Executive Board.—The executive board shall meet at least once a month, and the officers of the chapter shall attend these meetings and be entitled to full participation therein. The board shall formulate programmes

of business for submission to, and execution by, the chapter.

ARTICLE II.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Section 1.—The officers of the chapter shall be elected by ballot on the last regular meeting night in December and shall take their stations on the first regular meeting night in January, thus holding office for one year. Nominations for officers shall be made from the floor.

Section 2.—Eligibility.—No person shall be eligible to office in this chapter who has not been a member of the chapter for at least six months, and who is not over 14 and under 23 years of age.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any active member may, at any regular meeting, propose the name of any woman for honorary membership. The

name shall be voted upon by ballot, and a unanimous vote in the affirmative shall be necessary for election.

ARTICLE IV.

MEETINGS.

The chapter shall hold an open meeting once a month, to which each active member may bring one visitor. At this meeting the active members shall furnish the entertainment. Honorary members may attend all meetings, but shall not vote on the proceedings.

The above is a true and correct copy of the constitution and by-laws adopted by the Grand Chapter of New Jersey Girls' Reading Fraternity, on January 16, 1906.

PEARL E. DAY,
Grand President.

Attest:

FLORENCE A. STOCKHAM,
Grand Secretary.

Camden, N.J. Free Public Library
Mar. 5. 1906